



City of Hampton

August 22, 2003

TO: Residents/Property Owners in the Buckroe Area

SUBJECT: **Pembroke Avenue Corridor Improvements-Phase 1**
Proposal To Close A Portion Of Pembroke Avenue/1st Street To Traffic

Dear Resident/Property Owner:

The City of Hampton, in cooperation with the Buckroe Civic Association and other area groups, is preparing the design for roadway/streetscaping improvements along Pembroke Avenue, between Mallory Street and 1st Street, and for 1st Street, between Pembroke Avenue and Buckroe Avenue. This capital project is the first phase of future Corridor improvements along Pembroke Avenue from 1st Street to the Buckroe Shopping Center.

The current project concept includes the reconstruction of the block of Pembroke Avenue, between Mallory Street and 2nd Street, to permit three travel lanes with new landscaping and lighting. **The block of Pembroke Avenue, between 2nd Street and 1st Street is proposed to be reconstructed as a pedestrian "esplanade" (20-ft wide paver plaza) with new lighting and landscaping, which would result in the closure of this street segment to vehicular traffic.**

Likewise, First Street, between Pembroke Avenue and the existing paved parking lot for Buckroe Park, would be reconstructed with a pedestrian esplanade, (and no vehicular traffic). A sketch which depicts this concept, is attached for your information.

In addition, as a separate project, the City is proposing to upgrade the segment of Mallory Street, between Pembroke Avenue and Buckroe Avenue, in order to accommodate the expected increased traffic which would result from the closure of the 1st block of Pembroke Avenue. Also, the entrances to the existing gravel/grass public parking lot bounded by 2nd Street/Buckroe Avenue/1st Street and Pembroke Avenue will be relocated to Buckroe Avenue and 1st Street. Further, the intersection of Buckroe Avenue and 1st Street will be upgraded to improve traffic flow for area residents and beach visitors.

The closure of the first blocks of Pembroke Avenue and North 1st Street to traffic is proposed in order to improve the safety of pedestrian and bicyclists going to Buckroe Beach, Buckroe Park, the new playground and other public facilities in the area. Further,

ENGINEERING SERVICES (757)727-6390 FAX (757)727-6123
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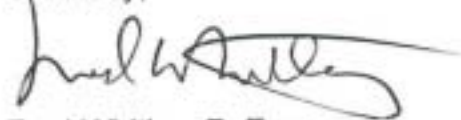
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the pedestrian esplanade would provide additional opportunities for art shows and other public activities, and it will enhance the overall appearance of the area. Passenger drop offs will be provided at either end of the pedestrian esplanade to reduce walking distances to the Park. Also, the diversion of traffic from Pembroke Avenue to Buckroe Avenue should enhance commercial opportunities within the existing Buckroe business district on Buckroe Avenue.

The City and the Civic Association would like to have your comments of the project concept, particularly on the proposed closure of the two street segments to traffic. A telephone number (727-8414) has been set up with voice mail to receive your comments and/or you may send in written comments to: Engineering Services, City of Hampton, Virginia, 22 Lincoln Street, Hampton, Virginia 23669. You may also email your comments to engineering.services@hampton.gov. All comments should be received by September 15, 2003 in order that the project can be designed and constructed prior to the 2004 beach season.

We truly want your input into this project so that it can be designed to best accommodate both the area residents and the many visitors to the area. Thank you for your help in making the Buckroe community a better place to live, work and play.

Sincerely,



Fred Whitley, P. E.
City Engineer

cc: Buckroe Civic Association
The Pointe at Salt Ponds Homeowners Assoc
Salt Ponds Condominium Association
Morningview Condominium Association
Cantamar Condominium Association
City Manager
Neighborhood Office
Director of Parks and Recreation
Director of Planning
Director of Public Works
Chief of Police
Fire Chief

Attachment: